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Pre-Application Notice 623-02-029

Sudan Local Governance Strengthening Program

Description

The Regional Contracting Office within REDSO/ESA (Nairobi, Kenya) invites firms and organizations to eventually submit "activity design and implementation" proposals for a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide technical assistance, training, commodities, and institutional support sub-grants. These inputs are required over an anticipated five-year period to implement USAID's Sudan Local Governance Strengthening Program (the "Program"), with funding currently estimated at \$10 million, although additional resources are possible.

The Program is in direct response to the civil war in Sudan that has raged for 34 of the 45 years since its independence. The war has been the central focus of political life throughout the country. It has caused significant loss of life, mass population displacement, substantial economic decline, and severely hindered Sudan's capacity to develop as a nation. Repeated efforts to reach a solution among Sudanese have only resulted in a return to war; however, there now is growing demand to revitalize and successfully conclude the regional peace process, since this offers the most promising means to finally realize an end to the world's longest running complex emergency.

The Program will be undertaken in the context of the U.S. Government's strategy to increase the self-reliance of Sudanese to mitigate conflicts, rehabilitate their communities and economy, and better prepare for an eventual transition to lasting peace. The emphasis on self-reliance means that assistance programs in Sudan are implemented, to the greatest extent possible, through local communities and organizations, and they rely on these local institutions to make major decisions regarding all forms of rehabilitation projects. In addition to new initiatives that may arise as part of the joint design effort, the Program aims to expand on the success of USAID's support over the last three years for local-level civil administration training and community dialogues that have increased governance capacity in several post-conflict, opposition-controlled areas of Southern Sudan.

The envisioned purpose of the Program will be to: 1) increase the capacity of local-level municipal administrations to undertake participatory budget planning, in coordination with nascent local public assemblies and in accordance with local priorities; 2) generate revenues, through fair and transparent procedures; and 3) effectively and transparently control finances. It is expected that the Program's implementation modalities might include, *inter alia*: 1) providing direct technical expertise to the local-level municipal administrations; 2) organizing apprenticeships and short-term opportunities in the Greater Horn of Africa region for Sudanese technical experts, administrators and fiscal managers to learn current methods of municipal administration and local governance; 3) strengthening indigenous training institutions and; and 4) forging linkages and promoting cooperation, where possible, between indigenous conflict mitigation and peace-building organizations and local governance institutions and networks.

While the Cooperative Agreement recipient will perform the primary role in the design of the Program, there has been and will continue to be very substantial work undertaken in anticipation of this new, expanded initiative that will be provided to the recipient, e.g., comprehensive minutes of the May 13-14, 2002 Program Design Workshop, evaluations of recent USAID activities in Southern Sudan, "best practices" in governance in other neighboring countries, etc.

Once the RFA is issued, all questions related to the RFA must be addressed in writing by letter, fax or e-mail to the below contact points, with reference to the RFA number and title and your complete organization name, street address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

The RFA is projected to be issued in late May or early June. It is the responsibility of the party downloading the RFA to ensure that it has been received in its entirety, and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from the transmission or conversion processes. Any amendments to the RFA also will be posted on the internet, and interested parties should check the website regularly. The publication of this notice or the RFA does not obligate the U.S. Government to make an award.

Note: In accordance with 31 CFR Part 501 and 31 CFR Part 538 prospective organizations must be licensed with the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control in order to be engaged in developmental and humanitarian assistance activities in Sudan. A license, however, is not required prior to submitting an application. Organizations wishing to apply for a license may do so by submitting the required information to:

Compliance Programs Division
Office for Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20220

NAICS: 541611, Order of Magnitude Threshold: (Estimated) Not to Exceed \$ 10 Million,
Competition Level: Full and Open and Numbered/Non-Numbered Note(s): Are Not Applicable.

Point of Contact

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Place of Performance

Southern Sudan